



## 2008-09 Handbook

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrumental Music**

# **2008-09 Handbook: 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Instrumental Music**

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# 2009-2010 Handbook for Instrumental Music

## WELCOME BAND MEMBERS

### Attention Parents and Band Members:

Welcome to the Heritage Middle School Band! Our goal is to make your child's band opportunity one of the most educational, meaningful, musical, enjoyable, and rewarding experiences while at HMS! This is the official handbook for the Band Class. It is very important to read all of the major sections of the handbook and bring forth any questions or concerns as soon as possible. Please review all sections of information **with your child at home**.

Recent studies point out how music performance classes can "make one smarter, sharper, and an all around better student." This is due to the self-discipline encountered daily: **Practice and problem solving, Concentration, Dedication, Organization, Responsibility, and Teamwork**. Parent interest, support, and daily encouragement are also needed if a child is to succeed in the above. What is MOST important from the beginning is a steady, **consistent practice time be established** at home - much as you would for your child's homework. (example: after dinner, before dinner, from 7:00-7:20 p.m., half hour before bed, etc... ) Like homework, a **routine increases the chance for success**.

When you have read through the entire handbook, parents and students should fill out the **Band Information Form and return it to school with your band fee by Sept. 1st**. Please keep the booklet at home for future reference should any questions arise during the year. Additionally, feel free to contact us via email at school. We will do all we can to respond as soon as is possible.

**We are looking forward to a wonderful new school year!**

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## **PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Informational letters, invitations, reminder letters for upcoming activities, etc. will be given to your child to take home from time to time. Effective communication is essential for success! Feel free to periodically check the school web-site for any announcements concerning band. The web address for the HMS Band is [www.wcs.edu/hms/band.htm](http://www.wcs.edu/hms/band.htm)

## **BAND ROOM DAILY RULES & REHEARSAL CONDUCT**

1. Sit in your assigned row and seat
2. Play ONLY when DIRECTED (always stop on cutoff cues)
3. Want to speak? Please raise your hand
4. NO CHEWING GUM, food, or open drink containers.
5. Be respectful of other students
6. Respect school property and personal belongings
7. Give 100 percent in class

Proper rehearsal conduct is defined by the following statement:

*“all things each individual does during each moment that contributes to a smooth rehearsal.*

## **DAILY PREPARATION FOR BAND CLASS**

The following is the typical expected checklist when reporting to band class each day:

- 1) Band Instrument and supplies inside the case (extra reeds, cork grease, slide oil, etc..)
- 2) Music Folder (provided by Music and Arts, Inc.)
- 3) a pencil with an eraser
- 4) any handouts, worksheets, or sheet music

A classroom set of method books will stay in the band room for classroom use only.

## GRADING

A student's grade in band class is comprised of three types of grades:

- 1) **Participation & Preparedness**
- 2) **Written assignments & Quizzes**
- 3) **Performance tests through SmartMusic**

The main goal of the grades is to provide you and your student proper feedback to better determine if the amount of practice at home should be adjusted.

## INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE

It is the responsibility of the student to keep his/her instrument in proper working condition. Proper assembly and maintenance of the instrument can prevent damage and loss of instructional time. Throughout the year the instructors will demonstrate proper methods for keeping the instruments in working condition.

Most importantly, do not let another student hold/play your instrument, and do not ask to hold/play another student's instrument. The sharing of instruments is not allowed in order to prevent hurt feelings from accidental damage. **NO ONE TOUCHES A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT EXCEPT PERCUSSIONISTS!!!!** This is not intended to be disrespectful in any way. For some reason everyone thinks of the school owned percussion equipment as their own.

Lastly, if you purchase/rent an instrument there are four things to remember:

- 1 – keep a name tag on the outside of the case with the student's name and phone number
- 2 - send the make, model, and serial number to your home-owner's insurance  
(*your personal instrument is not covered by Williamson County Schools insurance*)
- 3 – keep the make, model, and serial number in a safe place at home
- 4 – soft instrument cases are cool but not very protective (maybe later)

## BAND FEE

This year the band fee has been lowered to \$35. **This fee along with your band information sheet is due by Sept. 1.** Not only does this fee provide the monies to operate the band program, it also prevents the need for a fundraiser. In addition to music and various supplies needed for the band class, each student will receive a band shirt at the beginning of the year. The reason for the lower band fee is because this year we are implementing the SmartMusic system.

## SMART MUSIC

SmartMusic is a software program that the students will use at home to practice and take assessments. SmartMusic requires a yearly subscription of \$25.50.

Instructions for downloading SmartMusic are available on the band website at [www.wcs.edu/hms/band.htm](http://www.wcs.edu/hms/band.htm)

**DO NOT PURCHASE YOUR SMART MUSIC SUBSCRIPTION  
UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE BAND DIRECTORS!**

## MID-STATE BAND

To be eligible to audition for Mid-State Band students must master and perform all scales required by MTSBOA for their band director by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If this requirement is not met students may not audition for Mid-State Band.

## CONCERT DRESS CODE AND ETTIQUETTE

In order to prevent additional costs, the required dress for concerts is . . .

**SOMETHING NICE . . . NO JEANS!**

We ask all band students to stay for the entire concert. It is good for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band to hear a live performance of another band. It is equally as good for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to remember where they once were and how far they have come. We will have lessons in proper concert behavior and etiquette. It is up to you(the student) to behave correctly when you are not performing.



## BAND INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS' NAMES OR legal guardians: (please use your first AND last names below)

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS

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“We have reviewed all information in this handbook packet and agree to all requirements, procedures, and expectations of the class.”

SIGNED: STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Signatures \_\_\_\_\_



## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Calendar

<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>Band Fees are Due</b>
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<b>Football Game Performance</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>Winter Concert - 7:00pm</b>
<b>Jan/TBA</b>	<b>All County Band</b>
<b>Mar/TBA</b>	<b>Basketball Game Performance</b>
<b>April/TBA</b>	<b>Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival</b>
<b>May 6th</b>	<b>HMS Spring Concert – 7:00pm</b>